

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

GOSS, Porter J. (Republican)
Representative, 14th District, Florida
Elected 1988 to the 101st Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Waterbury, Connecticut - 26 November 1938

Home: Sanibel, Florida

Marital Status: Married (Mariel) - 4 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: Yale University., BA, 1960

Military: US Army, 1960-62

Profession: Former CIA agent; businessman

Political: Sanibel City Councilman, 1974-80, 1981-2; mayor of Sanibel, 1975-77, 1982; Lee County Commission, 1983-88, chmn, 1985-86. Defeated Jack Conway (D) with 71% of the vote in 1988 general election for the seat of Rep Connie Mack (R) who ran successfully for the Senate. Prior to 1992 redistricting, represented the 13th district. Reelected in 2000 with 85% of the vote and ran unopposed in 2002.

Rep Goss is described as an approachable, straight-talking and pragmatic conservative who reversed his decision to retire at the end of the 107th Congress after he was assured that he would retain his chairmanship of the House Permanent Select Cmte on Intelligence. Is considered an advocate for the intelligence community. Considered conservative on social and economic issues but has worked in a bipartisan fashion on many issues. Strongly opposes oil and gas development off the Florida coast sought by the Bush administration. (CQ, Politics in America, 2004) In the 106th Congress, opposed US air and missile strikes on Yugoslavia and suggested that the mistaken bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade was in part due to stretching finite resources too thin. Called for a withdrawal of US forces from Haiti. Served on the Cox Commission that investigated allegations of Chinese espionage at US weapons labs. Urged the Clinton Administration to speak out on the dangers of exporting certain encryption technology. Appointed to the National Commission for the Review of the NRO. Commented that the world is a more dangerous place and we are more vulnerable and threatened as a result of the what he considered the underfunded and overcommitted military of the Clinton-Gore administration. Considers NRO launch issues, including all aspects of Air Force support for this activity, a top priority for the HPSCI. In the 107th Congress, asserted that the NSA has seen its effectiveness weakened by advances in commercial computing. Said that dealing with information sharing is critical to providing homeland security in the wake of 9/11. Strong supporter of military voting rights, particularly for those serving overseas. Supported the FY03 intelligence authorization bill, noting that it contained the most significant investment for the intelligence community in 8 years, including funds to disrupt terrorist financial support networks and improve linguistic capabilities. Has been mentioned as a potential CIA Director should the position become vacant.

Additional Information: Member, North Atlantic Assembly

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

SELECT INTELLIGENCE -- Chairman